



TANF 1101-1

OTHER TANF SERVICES/PROGRAMS

TANF Emergency Assistance (EA)

Supersedes:	TANF 1101-1 (7/1/09)
References:	ARM 37.78.102, .601 and .602
Overview:	<p>Emergency Assistance (EA) provides financial assistance in emergent situations.</p> <p>EA is designed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide <u>immediate resolution</u> of an emergency (not simply delay the emergency);2. Prevent a child's removal from their home;3. Expedite a child's return to their home; and4. Prevent a child from needing protective services. <p>EA can be provided to the following, if eligible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Families with children under age 21; or2. Pregnant women in their third trimester who have no children living with them. <p>EA can be provided when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An unforeseen event, beyond the household's control and which may result in the child becoming destitute arises; or2. Child and Family Services (CFSD) identifies a situation involving child abuse or neglect that results in an emergency. <p>EA benefits DO NOT count toward the allowable 60-month TANF time limit.</p> <p>EA can be received only once in a 12-month period.</p> <p>NOTE: Households eligible for Tribal TANF are NOT eligible for State TANF EA.</p>
UNFORESEEN EVENT	<p>First, it must be determined what unforeseen event created the emergency situation. It must not have been under the adult's control and they could not have anticipated it would occur.</p> <p>The event and emergency situation may not immediately follow each other, but the emergency must be directly related to the event.</p> <p>EA can be requested by the family/pregnant woman or by a department employee.</p>
APPLICATION	<p>A completed HCS-020 (EA Application) must be submitted to the OPA for "hard" services. The application date for "hard" services is the date the OPA receives and date stamps the completed/signed application.</p> <p>The HCS 020 remains valid for 30 days, and changes to needed items/services as well as requests for additional services may be made within this 30-day period.</p> <p>CFSD determines the need for EA "soft" services.</p>
ELIGIBILITY	All EA applications must be processed within 5 calendar days of receipt.

DETERMINATION TIME LINE	If the necessary verification is not received within 5 calendar days of application, the application must be processed within 5 calendar days of receiving the verification.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<p>To qualify for EA, the following must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The household has not received EA in the previous 12 months; • A child under age 21 is living with a specified caretaker relative, or a child under 18 has lived with a specified caretaker relative within the 6 months immediately preceding the EA application; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The child must be living in a home maintained by the specified caretaker relative as the child's home. • The applicant is a pregnant woman in her 3rd trimester with no other children living with her; • All family members are U.S. citizens or qualified aliens; • The child or specified caretaker relative did not, without good cause, refuse to accept or maintain employment or employment training; • The household has exhausted all available means to meet the emergent need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including, but not limited to, all accessible liquid resources and any available benefits or services.
HARD SERVICES	<p>"Hard Services" are items or services necessary to directly overcome the emergency caused by the unforeseen event.</p> <p>Following are examples of allowable hard services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food, clothing, shelter (rent/temporary lodging), utilities or personal care items ○ The most recent 2 months of past due rent and/or utilities bills. • Temporary transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bus pass, taxi service, cost of necessary vehicle repairs (owned by applicant and essential to employment retention). One repair estimate must be received prior to any repairs being started. • Replacement/repair of necessary home appliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ refrigerator, heating/cooling (owned by applicant) • Replacement/repair of necessary home furnishings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bed, bedding • Other items/services necessary to overcome the emergency situation. • Central office TANF staff must approve hard services requests totaling more than \$1000.
SOFT SERVICES	<p>"Soft Services" are services approved by CFSD necessary to overcome child abuse/neglect, prevent the child's removal from their home, expedite a child's return to their home or to prevent the need for child protective services.</p> <p>An unforeseen event is not required for EA soft services to be approved.</p> <p>Following are examples of allowable soft services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of home-based services;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute or foster care <p>CFSD EA applications are always approved unless a household member received EA within the previous 12 months.</p>
EXCLUDED ITEMS/SERVICES	<p>EA cannot be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal or real property • Medical services/related expenses; • Insurance premiums; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Auto, home, life • Burials; • To reimburse the applicant/family for expenses already paid or repay money loaned to them; • Deposits; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rental, utility, security • Legal fees, fines or penalties; • To purchase a vehicle; • To pay late fees (rental/mortgage); • Mortgage payments; • Bills for services already received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including medical, bills more than 30 days past due (with exception of most recent 2 month's rent or utilities) • Travel expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payable by another source, including, but not limited to, Medicaid travel, supportive services or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance • To provide <u>ongoing</u> (daily, weekly, monthly) cash payments for basic needs items essential for day-to-day living (food, clothing, shelter) and personal care items; • As a substitute for other basic needs assistance programs including, but not limited to TANF cash or BIA General Assistance.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 1, 2017